

THE BELCHAMP RURAL DISTRICT,

IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1910.

(Pursuant to the Regulations of the Local Government Board.)

Population (1881) 6200 ; (1891) 5722 ; (1901) 4847. *Number of parishes*, 17.

Acreage, 26548. *Persons per acre*, 0.18.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 1213. *Average number of persons per house*, 4.0.

Occupation of inhabitants, entirely agricultural.

Geological formation : chalk, covered on the higher ground with boulder clay, and in the valleys with drift sand and gravel or brick earth.

The following vital statistics are compiled from the returns made by the Registrars in the District.

BIRTHS. There were **91** births registered during the year, equivalent to a birth-rate of **18.8** per 1000 of the population. The births and birth-rates in this District during the previous seven years were :—

	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
Births	95	85	89	88	80	90	91	91
Birth-rate...	19.6	17.5	18.3	18.1	16.5	18.6	18.8	18.8

The Birth-rate for 1910 in Rural England and Wales was 25.0.

DEATHS. The number of deaths from all causes registered in the District was **61**, to which 4 deaths belonging to the District occurring in the Workhouse and St. Leonard's Hospital, Sudbury, have to be added, making the total deaths **65**, equivalent to a death-rate of **13.5** per 1000 of the population. The deaths and death-rates during the previous seven years were :—

	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
Deaths registered	66	69	61	52	61	56	53	61
Deaths belonging to the District	70	77	68	58	64	68	63	65
Death-rate.....	14.4	15.8	14.0	11.9	13.2	14.0	13.0	13.5

The Death-rate for 1910 in Rural England and Wales was 12.8.

The following table shows the relative age mortality :—

Deaths—Under 1 year.	1 to 5 years.	5 to 15 years.	15 to 25 years.	25 to 65 years.	over 65 years.
5	3	1	1	25	30

Among the 30 deaths over 65 years, were 15 over the age of 80 years.

Infantile Mortality. There were 5 deaths of infants under one year of age, equivalent to a death-rate of 62.5 per 1000 of births registered.

The infantile deaths and death-rates for the previous seven years were as follows :—

	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
Deaths of infants under one year ...	11	13	8	3	5	7	3	5
Rate per 1000 of births registered...	115.7	152.9	89.8	34.1	62.5	77.7	33.0	62.5

The Infant Mortality for 1910 in Rural England and Wales was 96.0.

The "Notification of Births Act, 1907," is not in operation in the District.

Zymotic Mortality. The only deaths from this cause which occurred during the year were two cases of whooping cough.

General Mortality. Among the deaths registered were 3 from tuberculosis, one of which was pulmonary ; from cancer there were 12 deaths, from bronchitis 2, from heart diseases 6, from accidents 3.

Infectious Diseases. This year the District has been entirely free of notifiable diseases, so that no notifications have been received. The record for the past seven years was as follows ;—

	Small pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Typhoid Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Total cases.	Per Thousand Population.
1903	0	1	0	0	0	5	6	1.2
1904	0	11	1 croup	1	1	3	17	3.5
1905	0	57	0	1	0	3	61	12.5
1906	0	17	0	0	0	0	17	3.5
1907	0	5	0	0	0	1	6	1.2
1908	0	13	3	0	0	1	17	3.5
1909	0	13	2	0	0	2	17	3.5
1910	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.0

Of the non-notifiable diseases the district was very clear until December, when an outbreak of measles occurred in the parish of Belchamp Otten among the school children. I found it necessary to advise the closing of the school a fortnight before the Christmas holidays. Later on some cases also occurred in the parish of Belchamp St. Pauls. Several cases of whooping cough were reported in the parish of Borley, and two fatal cases occurred.

Tuberculosis. No cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified under the "Poor Law Regulations, 1908." There is no compulsory or voluntary system of notification in operation in the district, though private cases among the working classes generally come to my knowledge, and printed instructions are given. One of these, a lad of seventeen in rather advanced phthisis, was living with other children in a cottage in the parish of Gestingthorpe, and the medical attendant reported it to be an urgent case for isolation. I brought the matter before this District Council, and they authorised the erection of a canvas shelter. This I had made and fixed in the garden of the house at a cost of £8. In this shelter the lad is now isolated. In each case of death from phthisis, notification thereof is received from the Registrar, and immediately after the funeral the disinfection of rooms, bedding and clothing, has taken place. This was done in the one case which took place this year.

HOUSES. The house accommodation for the working classes is generally adequate, with sufficient open space and cleanliness of surroundings. Nearly all have garden ground attached, else convenient allotment ground. There were only three new houses erected, two of which were for the working class. Action has commenced to be taken under Part I. of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1909. The following are particulars :—

1. Number of houses in a dilapidated condition for which closing orders were made	..	..	..	..	10
2. Number of dilapidated houses demolished after formal notice					2
3. Number of defective houses put in repair			..	..	9

The above are not included in the appended Report of the Inspector of Nuisances for the year. Houses overcrowded occurred in three cases, and were abated by reducing the number of occupants.

WATER SUPPLY. The water supply is entirely derived from wells and springs. Many of the wells go down into the chalk formation, others get a good supply from springs in the interglacial gravels of the boulder clay. The rainfall during the year was much above the average, ranging from 26.5 to 28 inches over the district. There are nine public wells supplying the most populous parts in the district; the water from these is sufficient and pure. There are numerous private wells; four new ones were sunk this year, three of which were to take the place of condemned wells. Certificates were granted in three cases, two of which had been deferred. There were twenty-four samples of water taken and analysed from fifteen wells; seven of these still continue impure. Steps are being taken to have a public well in the parish of Belchamp St. Pauls where it is much required.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE. The privy cesspit is gradually being replaced by the sanitary pail system: this is the only method of dealing with excremental refuse, which is disposed of on garden or allotment ground. Sewers and connected house drains exist in a few of the larger villages, but are only used for slop and storm water. There is no pollution of streams or river. Fourteen ditches which receive sewage were cleaned out. New or improved private drains were made in twenty-eight cases where required. The chemical precipitation process which treats the trade effluent from the Foxearth Brewery continues to work satisfactorily; the ditch connected with same requires cleaning of vegetation, &c., twice a year.

SCHOOLS. There are twelve elementary schools: the sanitary condition of the offices is satisfactory, and the water supply if not on the premises is convenient. A new school house was built at Belchamp St. Pauls on the site of the old one, which was much dilapidated. The drainage and water supply has been improved at Borley School. The action taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases is as follows—with regard to scarlet fever, the exclusion of all children from infected houses, and sometimes from infected areas; also the examination of all the children in school for any signs of desquamation, particularly those who have been lately absent. For measles, whooping cough, and chicken pox, the exclusion of the affected child, also of any younger ones in the affected family, but not necessarily the elder ones. The medical inspection of school children is done by a whole time Inspector.

MILK SUPPLY. There are four dairies and cowsheds which are regularly inspected. One of these sends all the milk to London, having it passed through strainer and refrigerator. The milk supply of the district is mainly derived from farmers and others, who keep two or three cows and allow their surplus milk to be procured by their workpeople and neighbours: most of these have been inspected. The wholesomeness of the milk supply is considered to be reliable.

OTHER FOODS. No action under the Food and Drugs Acts has been necessary.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES. These number three and are frequently inspected, and are kept in a sanitary condition.

OFFENSIVE TRADES. Only one, a knacker's yard, which is licensed and kept free of nuisances.

LODGING HOUSE. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. There are eight factories in the district, viz., five flour mills, two breweries, and one builder's workshop. There are thirty-three workshops, which include sixteen bakehouses. All have been inspected: there are no underground bakehouses. One complaint was received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, which was at once attended to.

PLAGUE AND RATS. Owing to this district being within the threatened area of the possible extension of plague from East Suffolk, H.M. Medical Inspector, Dr. Fletcher, met the officials on November 29th, and urged the necessity of taking steps for the destruction of rats in the district. The result of this visit was that handbills were circulated, and an impetus given to rat destruction, which exterminated a good number. Later on, eighty-four rats are to be killed and labelled, and sent in provided boxes to Ipswich for bacteriological examination at Government expense.

GENERAL SANITATION. Systematic as well as special inspections have been made throughout the district. No legal proceedings have been necessary. Early in the year a bullock died from anthrax in Bures Hamlet; the carcase was burned and the premises disinfected: no other cases occurred.

There are now three district and maternity nurses for five parishes. More of these valuable hygienic helpers are much required.

Annexed is a tabular statement relative to the sanitary work done in the seventeen parishes in the district.

Tabular statements, according to the forms supplied by the Local Government Board, of sickness and mortality within the districts, are appended to the official reports.

J. SINCLAIR HOLDEN, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1910.

	Alphamstone.	Belchamp Otten.	Belchamp St. Pauls.	Belchamp Walter.	Borley.	Bulmer.	Bures Hamlet.	Foxearth.	Gestingthorpe.	Great Henny.	Little Henny.	Lamarsh.	Liston.	Middleton.	Pentlow.	Twinstead.	Wickham St. Pauls.	TOTAL
General Sanitation.	Complaints received	1	1	2	1	2	...	1	3	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	15
	Nuisances detected	4	5	10	8	4	11	8	9	10	7	1	3	2	4	5	2	98
	Nuisances abated without notice	3	4	7	5	3	9	6	6	7	6	1	2	2	4	4	1	73
	Nuisances abated after notice	1	1	3	3	1	2	2	4	3	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	25
	Notices served	1	1	3	3	1	2	2	4	3	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	25
	Premises inspected	17	15	29	26	8	51	24	27	26	19	4	15	8	14	21	18	340
	Houses disinfected															1	...	1
	Houses newly erected or rebuilt			1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Overcrowding abated							1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Water supply certificates granted			1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	3
	Water supply certificates deferred				2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Water samples taken for analysis	1	...	9	1	1	6	2	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	24
	Wells sunk	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	Wells cleaned and repaired ...	1	...	1	1	1	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	9
	Wells closed	1	...	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
	Privies, new	1	...	1	4	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	12
	Privies improved	2	2	4	3	3	6	3	3	3	...	1	...	2	2	...	2	36
	Drains, new and improved	1	2	4	5	1	1	3	4	2	...	1	...	1	1	1	1	28
	Ditches cleansed	1	...	2	2	1	4	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	14
Factory & Workshop Act, 1901.	Animals improperly kept		1	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	Workshops inspected (including 16 bakehouses)	1	1	3	4	1	4	5	2	3	3	...	1	3	...	1	1	33
	Offensive trades				1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Bakehouses inspected		1	3	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	16
	Slaughter Houses inspected ...	1	...		1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Offensive accumulations			1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	...	...	...	2	...	2	14
	Dairies and cow sheds inspected					1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	4

S. ALLPRESS,
Inspector of Nuisances.